

Panel Hits Deaths At Kent, Jackson

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The President's Commission on Campus Unrest has concluded that the killing of students at Kent State University and Jackson State College last May were "completely unjustified," two commission members said yesterday.

Joseph Rhodes Jr., a junior fellow at Harvard University, and James Ahern, chief of police in New Haven, Conn., disclosed the commission's judgment in the wake of its report to President Nixon but in advance of a separate report on the Kent State and Jackson State killings. That report is scheduled for release later this week.

Reaction to the report, which called on Mr. Nixon to exert new leadership in reuniting the American people, covered the range of divided opinion throughout the nation.

S. I. Hayakawa, president of

San Francisco State College, called the report "a remarkably empty, pussyfooting document" that failed to separate "nihilistic revolutionaries" from impatient reformers.

Commission members Rhodes and Ahern defended the report in a television appearance with Chairman William W. Scranton on "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC).

Rhodes, who incurred the wrath of Vice President Agnew by criticizing Nixon administration rhetoric shortly after his appointment to the commission, said the commission found that "the deadly force that was used was completely unjustified" both at Kent State in Ohio, where four students died, and Jackson State in Mississippi, where two were killed.

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CAMPUS, From A1

Justice Department investigators already have concluded that National Guardsmen and police were not under sniper fire either at Kent State or Jackson State when they shot at students.

Rhodes, a Negro, said "We found people in law enforcement in Jackson who demonstrated a remarkable, incredible lack of concern for the human life of black people, who regarded the black people of Mississippi as fair game for their missiles, for their weapons, and acted in seemingly totally unprofessional ways, given the circumstances."

He said the police were "taunted," rather than threatened by the black students, yet they "shot over 300 times into a girls' dormitory at unarmed people, killing two,

wounding nine, for no obvious reason."

At Kent State the commission "found contradicting testimony," Rhodes said, including evidence that students had felt that "their turf, their campus, had been invaded by the National Guard." He said he deplored the student violence that preceded the guardsmen's arrival.

Ahern, asked whether he agreed that unjustified force had been used in both cases, replied, "Yes, I do."

Scranton said he sensed a change in the Nixon administration's rhetoric about campus matters since the spring disturbances, including a more moderate tone in Agnew's speeches. "I think the episodes of this spring had a very deep effect on the administration from what I can see from the outside," he said.

Scranton said he would be

"bitterly disappointed" if the President fails to act on his proposals but he was confident that Mr. Nixon would react favorably when he has read the full report.

As Mr. Nixon departed on his European tour, the White House released another presidential letter to 900 college presidents and other education officials asking them to convey to "as many students as possible" the views of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover on campus troubles.

Enclosing Hoover's recent "a cogent and enlightening analysis" of the techniques used by extremists "as they attempt to trick college students into support of lawlessness, disruption and violence."

Mr. Nixon said Hoover's letter "impressed me as a worthy companion" to another document he sent the educators a week ago, an excerpt of testimony before the Scranton commission by Sidney Hook, professor of philosophy at New York University. Hook denounced timid school officials and ridiculed the idea that major war and social issues were the basic causes of college unrest.